

## Claims

- 5 1. A method for collecting network information from and providing user information to a plurality of computer networks, wherein the plurality of computer networks includes a server and computers, the method comprises the steps of:
- 10 a) transmitting, by the servers of the plurality of computer networks via a communication device over a first communication channel, network information to a host computer;
- 15 b) upon receiving the network information, storing, by the host computer, the network information to produce stored network information;
- 20 c) determining, by the host computer, at least one computer network of the plurality of computer networks to receive specific user information, wherein determination is based, at least in part, on the stored network information;
- 25 d) transmitting, by the host computer via a second communication channel, the specific user information, to the server of the at least one computer network; and
- e) after receiving the specific user information, displaying, by a computer of the at least one computer network, the specific user information.

*Sub D2*

2. In the method of claim 1, step (b) further comprises storing the network information as at least one of configuration information or statistical information, wherein configuration information further includes platform information and software information.

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3. The method of claim 2 further comprises generating, by the host computer, user marketing reports based on the statistical information.

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4. The method of claim 2 further comprises verifying, by the host computer, software authorization based on the software information.

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5. In the method of claim 1, step (a) further comprises transmitting network information either in response to a request from the host computer or on a periodic basis.

*Sub D3*

6. In the method of claim 1, step (c) further comprises receiving a request for the specific user information.

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*Sub A3*

7. In the method of claim 1, step (e) further comprises displaying the specific user information, wherein the specific user information includes at least one of bug reports, bug fixes, updates, free software, and pricing information.

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8. In the method of claim 1, step (a) and step (d) further comprise transmitting on the first communication channel and transmitting on the second communication channel, respectively, wherein the first communication channel is the second communication channel.

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9. In the method of claim 1, step (a) and step (d) further comprise transmitting on the first communication channel and transmitting on the second communication channel, respectively,

wherein the first communication channel and the second communication channel are wireless communication channels.

- 5 10. In the method of claim 1, step (a) and step (d) further comprise transmitting on the first communication channel and transmitting on the second communication channel, respectively, wherein the first communication channel and the second communication channel are wireline communication channels.

Sub A#  
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11. A method for collecting network information from and providing user information to a plurality of computers, the method comprises the steps of:

- 5 a) transmitting, by the plurality of computers via a communication device over a first communication channel, network information to a host computer;
- 10 b) upon receiving the network information, storing, by the host computer, the network information to produce stored network information;
- 15 c) determining, by the host computer, at least one computer of the plurality of computers to receive specific user information, wherein determination is based, at least in part, on the stored network information;
- 20 d) transmitting, by the host computer via a second communication channel, the specific user information to the at least one computer; and
- e) after receiving the specific user information, displaying by the at least one computer, the specific user information.

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5 12. In the method of claim 11, step (a) further comprises transmitting the network information as at least one of configuration information or statistical information, wherein configuration information further comprises platform information and software information.

10 13. The method of claim 12, further comprises generating, by the host computer, user marketing reports based on the statistical information.

14. The method of claim 12 further comprises verifying, by the host computer, software authorization based on the software information.

15 15. In the method of claim 11, step (a) further comprises transmitting network information either in response to a request from the host computer or on a periodic basis.

Sub 9.5  
20 16. In the method of claim 11, step (a) and step (d) further comprise transmitting on the first communication channel and transmitting on the second communication channel, respectively, wherein the first communication channel is the second communication channel.

Sub 9.7  
17. In the method of claim 11, step (c) further comprises receiving a request for specific user information.

30 18. In the method of claim 11, step (e) further comprises displaying the specific user information, wherein the specific user information includes at least one of bug reports, bug fixes, updates, free software, and pricing information.

35 19. In the method of claim 1, step (a) and step (d) further comprise transmitting on the first communication channel and transmitting on the second communication channel, respectively,

wherein the first communication channel and the second communication channel are wireless communication channels.

- 5 20. In the method of claim 11, step (a) and step (d) further comprise transmitting on the first communication channel and transmitting on the second communication channel, respectively, wherein the first communication channel and the second communication channel are wireline communication channels.

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21. A method for a host computer to collect network information from and provide user information to a plurality of users, the method comprises the steps of:

- 5 a) upon occurrence of an event, receiving network information from the plurality of users;
- b) upon receiving the network information, storing the network information to produce stored network information;
- 10 c) determining at least one user of the plurality of users to receive specific user information, wherein determination is based, at least in part, on the stored network information; and
- 15 d) transmitting the specific user information to the at least one user.

22. In the method of claim 21, step (a) and step (d) further comprises receiving the network information and transmitting the specific user information via at least one wireless communication channel.

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23. In the method of claim 21, step (a) further comprises receiving the network information upon the event of either a response to a request or periodic expiration of time.

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24. In the method of claim 21, step (a) further comprises receiving the network information from the plurality of users, wherein the plurality of users includes at least a plurality of computers or a plurality of computer networks.

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